

VIII. "Copy of a Despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by the British Consul at Canea, Crete, giving an account of an Earthquake which took place in that Island." Communicated by the Lord STANLEY, F.R.S. Received October 17, 1867.

Canea, Crete, September 23, 1867.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that two shocks of earthquake were felt here at $5\frac{1}{2}$ on the afternoon of the 19th instant, and again on the following morning, after an interval of twelve hours. The latter shock was severe, and lasted about ten seconds. The oscillations were horizontal, and appeared to proceed from east to west. Several houses have been cracked and otherwise damaged, and one of the old Venetian galley-arches fell sideways in a block, killing a Turkish sentry and a hospital attendant. A remarkable phenomenon occurred that morning soon after the earthquake. The sea receded at the rate of about ten inches per minute, until, attaining a maximum depression of some four feet, it gradually rose again above its former level. The water in the wells was affected in the same degree, and on rising it became much agitated. At $5\frac{3}{4}$ A.M. the sea-water was tepid, with a temperature of 87° (Fahr.), being equal to that of the air.

The morning was unusually still and sultry, and it was not until the afternoon that the sea subsided into its normal condition, tempered by a cool northerly breeze. A strong eddy had set in, causing much damage to shipping, several of the smaller craft parting their cables and coming into collision with each other. With reference to the state of the sea, it is worthy of note that the copper-bottom of Her Majesty's Ship 'Wizard,' now in this port, became suddenly clean and bright.

Many of the town inhabitants have fled to the country, and the Generalissimo, with His Highness's staff, has since removed to the camp outside the town.

Mr. Hall, second master of Her Majesty's Gunboat 'Wizard,' has kindly given me the following results of his observations:—

Thursday, Sept. 19, 1867.—5.40 P.M. Therm. 86° Fahr. Sea-water 85° .—Experienced the shock of an earthquake, four seconds' duration.

Friday, Sept. 20.—5.44 A.M. Mean time. Place Chr. Therm. 85° to 87° Fahr. Sea-water 87° .—Experienced a second shock of an earthquake, five seconds' duration, followed by a series of violent effluxes and influxes of the sea at intervals of ten minutes.

6.0 A.M. Therm. 78° . Water 77° .—Rate of efflux and influx on perpendicular three feet in four minutes.

6.45 A.M.—Duration of efflux and influx six minutes. Rate of do. six minutes. Perpendicular two feet in four minutes.

Noon.—Duration of efflux and influx four minutes.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) C. H. DICKSON.